

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

CLAYTON TREVOR MACK,

Petitioner,

vs.

ROBERT HERNANDEZ, Warden,

Respondent.

Civil No. 09-1700 JLS (AJB)

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
RE: DENIAL OF PETITION FOR WRIT
OF HABEAS CORPUS**

I. INTRODUCTION

Clayton Trevor Mack (Mack) is a California prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence of twenty-five years to life in addition to a consecutive determinate term of thirty-eight years and eight months in prison. In San Diego Superior Court case number SCD189468, Mack was convicted on November 29, 2005, of kidnaping for rape, three counts of forcible rape, three counts of forcible oral copulation, residential burglary, making a criminal threat, corporal injury to a spouse or roommate, attempting to dissuade a witness from testifying and disobeying a court order. (Lodgment No. 15, vol. 1 at 0009-14.) Various allegations and enhancements were also found true by the jury. (*Id.*)

Mack has filed a Petition (Pet.) for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging his convictions. He contends his Sixth Amendment right to counsel was violated when the trial court refused to grant him a continuance in order to permit him to replace retained counsel and refused his request to represent himself. (Pet. at 10-11.)¹ He also argues these denials rendered his trial

¹ For ease of reference, the Court uses the pagination assigned to the Petition by the Court's electronic filing system.

1 fundamentally unfair. (*Id.* at 12.) Finally, he claims his Sixth Amendment right to have every fact
2 which increases his punishment above the statutory maximum found by a jury beyond a reasonable
3 doubt, as delineated by *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466 (2000) and its progeny, was violated by
4 the sentence he received. (*Id.* at 12-14.)

5 This Court has reviewed the Petition, Respondent's Answer, the Traverse, and all supporting
6 documents. After a thorough review of the record, the Court finds that Petitioner is not entitled to the
7 relief requested and **RECOMMENDS** that the Petition be **DENIED**.

8 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

9 This Court gives deference to state court findings of fact and presumes them to be correct;
10 Petitioner may rebut the presumption of correctness, but only by clear and convincing evidence. 28
11 U.S.C.A. § 2254(e)(1)(West 2006); *see also Parke v. Raley*, 506 U.S. 20, 35-36 (1992) (holding findings
12 of historical fact, including inferences properly drawn from these facts, are entitled to statutory
13 presumption of correctness). The following facts are taken from the California Court of Appeal's
14 opinion denying Mack's direct appeal of his conviction:

15 A. Prosecution Case

16 Jaime J. dated Mack for over two years and lived with him for some period of
17 time. However, they terminated their relationship in late January 2005. Jaime moved
18 into her mother's apartment, but Mack continued to telephone her. He came to her
19 mother's apartment on February 6, 2005, ostensibly just to "talk," but raped her.
However, she did not immediately report the assault to police.

20 The following morning, while Jaime was in the shower, Mack entered her
21 apartment and came into the bathroom. He was carrying a knife and a glass pipe. He
forcibly raped her twice and forced her to orally copulate him. After he left, Jaime called
911 and obtained a restraining order.

22 Jaime did not see Mack again until March 4, 2005. Mack continued to try to
23 contact Jaime, and left several voice mails for her, claiming he was living in Alaska.
Jaime was working with police to try to locate Mack.

24 On the morning of March 4, Mack came to Jaime's apartment and kicked in the
25 door. She fled out the front door, wearing only jeans and a bra, but Mack caught her and
26 forced her into her car while a neighbor who witnessed the abduction called police.
Mack told her he had a weapon, and would hurt her if she tried to escape. He drove her
27 to an unfamiliar neighborhood, where he parked. He twice forcibly raped her and twice
forced her to orally copulate him.

28 Mack drove to a different location, where he got out of the car and allowed Jaime
to leave. She drove to a telephone and called 911. Police found Mack a short time later

1 trying to hide. At the police station, Mack expressed regret for what he had done, asked
2 for a deal, and said Jaime would never testify against him.

3 B. The Defense

4 Mack testified the sexual encounter on February 6 was consensual. When he
5 returned the following morning, he entered using a key Jaime had given to him and again
6 had consensual sex. Jaime was angry with Mack because he had slept with her sister.
Jaime had threatened to file a false police report asserting he had raped her. He returned
her key to her and left.

7 When he returned March 4, he accidentally broke a window while entering. He
8 forced her into the car so they could talk. They ended up having consensual sex in the
9 car. He denied making one of the statements to police attributed to him, but instead only
stated he had “----ed up” and that Jaime would not testify against him because she loved
him.

10 (Lodgment No. 12 at 3-5.)

11 **III. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

12 On November 14, 2005, the San Diego County District Attorney filed an amended information
13 charging Clayton Trevor Mack with one count of kidnaping for rape, a violation of California Penal
14 Code (Penal Code) section 209(b)(1) (count one), kidnaping, a violation of Penal Code section 207(a)
15 (count two), three counts of forcible rape, violations of Penal Code section 261(a)(2) (counts three, four
16 and ten), three counts of forcible oral copulation, violations of Penal Code section 288a(c)(2) (counts
17 five, six and eleven), two counts of residential burglary, violations of Penal Code section 459 (counts
18 seven and twelve), making a criminal threat, a violation of Penal Code 422 (count eight), corporal injury
19 to a spouse or roommate, a violation of Penal Code section 273.5 (count nine), attempting to dissuade
20 a witness from testifying, a violation of Penal Code section 136.1(a)(2) (count thirteen) and disobeying
21 a court order, a violation of Penal Code section 166(a)(4) (count fourteen). (Lodgment No. 15, Clerk’s
22 Tr. vol. 1 at 0009-15.) As to the rape and oral copulation charges alleged in counts three, four, five and
23 six, the amended information alleged that Mack actually kidnaped the victim, within the meaning of
24 Penal Code section 667.61(b)(c)(e), and that the kidnaping substantially increased the risk of harm to
25 the victim, within the meaning of Penal Code section 667.61(d)(2). As to the rape and oral copulation
26 allegations in counts ten and eleven, the amended information alleged the crimes occurred during the
27 commission of a burglary and that Mack was armed with a knife. (*Id.*) As to counts seven and twelve,
28 the burglary counts, the amended information alleged the residence was inhabited, within the meaning

1 of Penal Code section 460, that Mack was ineligible for probation, within the meaning of Penal Code
2 section 462(a), and there was a person present in the residence during the commission of the burglary,
3 within the meaning in Penal Code section 667.5(c)(21). Finally, the amended information alleged that
4 Mack had suffered two prior convictions which made him ineligible for probation, within the meaning
5 of Penal Code section 1203(e)(4). (*Id.*)

6 Following a jury trial, Mack was convicted of all counts except for count two, kidnaping, and
7 count twelve, residential burglary. (Lodgment No. 15, Clerk's Tr. vol. 2 at 0338-40.) The jury also
8 found not true the allegations that the rapes and oral copulations, as alleged in counts ten and eleven,
9 were committed during the commission of a burglary. (*Id.*) Mack was sentenced to twenty-five years
10 to life as the principal term for his rape conviction in count three, the mid term of six years on each of
11 the remaining rape and oral copulation convictions (counts four, five, six, ten, and eleven) to be served
12 consecutively, the upper term of six years on the burglary count (count seven) for an additional
13 consecutive determinate term of thirty-eight years and eight months in prison. (*Id.* at 0276-80.) The
14 court also sentenced Mack to the mid term of two years for his conviction for making a criminal threat
15 (count eight), the mid term of three years for his corporal injury to a cohabitant conviction (count nine),
16 and the mid-term of two years on his conviction for attempting to dissuade a witness from testifying
17 (count thirteen). These counts were to be served concurrently. (*Id.*) Finally, the court sentenced Mack

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1 to life with the possibility of parole for his kidnaping for the purpose of rape conviction (count one),
 2 which was stayed pursuant to California Penal Code sections 667.61(f)² and 654³.

3 Mack appealed his conviction to the California Court of Appeal. (Lodgment Nos. 1, 2, 3.) The
 4 court affirmed Mack's conviction, but reversed the sentence as to count seven, the burglary count
 5 because it violated the California Supreme Court's holding in *Cunningham v. California*, 549 U.S. 270
 6 (2007) by relying on facts not found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt or admitted to by Mack to
 7 sentence him to the aggravated term. (Lodgment No. 4 at 15-25.) Both Mack and the Attorney General
 8 thereafter filed petitions for review in the California Supreme Court. (Lodgment Nos. 5, 6.) That court
 9 denied Mack's petition, but granted Respondent's, deferring action on the petition and many other cases
 10 until further order of the court. (Lodgment No. 7.)

11 After the petition for review was granted, the California Supreme Court decided *People v. Black*,
 12 41 Cal. 4th 799 (2007) (*Black II*), which held that an upper term may be imposed consistent with
 13 *Cunningham* if either at least one valid aggravating factor was found in a manner consistent with
 14 *Cunningham* or a prior conviction was found true by the trial court, and *People v. Sandoval*, 41 Cal. 4th
 15 825 (2007), which reformed California's determinate sentencing law (DSL) to avoid unconstitutionality
 16 by requiring judges in cases remanded for resentencing for *Cunningham* error to state reasons for

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 18 ² California Penal Code section 667.61(f) states:

19 If only the minimum number of circumstances specified in subdivision
 20 (d) or (e) that are required for the punishment provided in subdivision (a) or (b)
 21 to apply have been pled and proved, that circumstance or those circumstances
 22 shall be used as the basis for imposing the term provided in subdivision (a) or
 23 (b), whichever is greater, rather than being used to impose the punishment
 24 authorized under any other provision of law, unless another provision of law
 25 provides for a greater penalty or the punishment under another provision of law
 26 can be imposed in addition to the punishment provided by this section.
 27 However, if any additional circumstance or circumstances specified in
 28 subdivision (d) or (e) have been pled and proved, the minimum number of
 circumstances shall be used as the basis for imposing the term provided in
 subdivision (a), and any other additional circumstance or circumstances shall
 be used to impose any punishment or enhancement authorized under any other
 provision of law.

³ California Penal Code section 654(a) states, in pertinent part:

An act or omission that is punishable in different ways by different
 provisions of law shall be punished under the provision that provides for the
 longest potential term of imprisonment, but in no case shall the act or omission
 be punished under more than one provision.

1 choosing an upper term but refrain from finding specific facts to support such a sentence. *Black*, 41 Cal.
2 4th at 812; *Sandoval*, 41 Cal. 4th at 846. Mack’s case, along with many others, was remanded to the
3 California Court of Appeal with direction to “vacate its decision and reconsider the cause in light of
4 *People v. Black* (2007) 41 Cal.4th 799 and *People v. Sandoval* (2007) 41 Cal 4th 825” (Lodgment
5 No. 8.)

6 On remand, the state appellate court again affirmed the convictions but remanded the matter to
7 the trial court for resentencing on counts one (kidnaping for purposes of rape) and count nine (corporal
8 injury to a cohabitant) pursuant to California Penal Code section 654 which prohibits punishing a
9 defendant multiple times for a single act, even if the act violates multiple statutes. (Lodgment No. 12.)
10 Mack then filed a petition for review in the California Supreme Court, which that court denied without
11 citation of authority. (Lodgment Nos. 13, 14.)

12 **IV. DISCUSSION**

13 **A. Standard of Review**

14 This Petition is governed by the provisions of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act
15 of 1996 (“AEDPA”). *See Lindh v. Murphy*, 521 U.S. 320 (1997). Under AEDPA, a habeas petition will
16 not be granted with respect to any claim adjudicated on the merits by the state court unless that
17 adjudication: (1) resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of
18 clearly established federal law; or (2) resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable
19 determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented at the state court proceeding. 28 U.S.C.
20 § 2254(d); *Early v. Packer*, 537 U.S. 3, 8 (2002). In deciding a state prisoner’s habeas petition, a federal
21 court is not called upon to decide whether it agrees with the state court’s determination; rather, the court
22 applies an extraordinarily deferential review, inquiring only whether the state court’s decision was
23 objectively unreasonable. *Yarborough v. Gentry*, 540 U.S. 1, 4 (2003); *Medina v. Hornung*, 386 F.3d
24 872, 877 (9th Cir. 2004). Additionally, the state court’s factual determinations are presumed correct,
25 and Mack carries the burden of rebutting this presumption with “clear and convincing evidence.” 28
26 U.S.C.A. § 2254(e)(1) (West 2006).

27 A federal habeas court may grant relief under the “contrary to” clause if the state court applied
28 a rule different from the governing law set forth in Supreme Court cases, or if it decided a case

1 differently than the Supreme Court on a set of materially indistinguishable facts. *Bell v. Cone*, 535 U.S.
2 685, 694 (2002). The court may grant relief under the “unreasonable application” clause if the state
3 court correctly identified the governing legal principle from Supreme Court decisions but unreasonably
4 applied those decisions to the facts of a particular case. *Id.* Additionally, the “unreasonable application”
5 clause requires that the state court decision be more than incorrect or erroneous; to warrant habeas relief,
6 the state court’s application of clearly established federal law must be “objectively unreasonable.”
7 *Lockyer v. Andrade*, 538 U.S. 63, 75 (2003).

8 Where there is no reasoned decision from the state’s highest court, the Court “looks through”
9 to the underlying appellate court decision. *Ylst v. Nunnemaker*, 501 U.S. 797, 801-06 (1991). If the
10 dispositive state court order does not “furnish a basis for its reasoning,” federal habeas courts must
11 conduct an independent review of the record to determine whether the state court’s decision is contrary
12 to, or an unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. *See Delgado v. Lewis*, 223
13 F.3d 976, 982 (9th Cir. 2000) (overruled on other grounds by *Lockyer*, 538 U.S. at 75-76); *accord Himes*
14 *v. Thompson*, 336 F.3d 848, 853 (9th Cir. 2003). However, a state court need not cite Supreme Court
15 precedent when resolving a habeas corpus claim. *Early*, 537 U.S. at 8. “[S]o long as neither the
16 reasoning nor the result of the state-court decision contradicts [Supreme Court precedent,]” *id.*, the state
17 court decision will not be “contrary to” clearly established federal law. *Id.* Clearly established federal
18 law, for purposes of § 2254(d), means “the governing principle or principles set forth by the Supreme
19 Court at the time the state court renders its decision.” *Lockyer*, 538 U.S. at 72.

20 B. *Analysis*

21 Mack raises four claims in his petition. First, he argues the denial of his request to replace
22 retained counsel with another retained attorney violated his Sixth Amendment right to counsel of his
23 choice. Second, he argues the denial of his request to represent himself violated his federal due process
24 rights. Third, he claims the refusal of the trial court to either permit him to change attorneys or represent
25 himself rendered his trial fundamentally unfair, violating his federal due process rights. Finally, he
26 contends his Sixth Amendment right, as delineated by *Apprendi* and its progeny, to have any fact which
27 increases his sentence beyond the statutory maximum be found beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury or
28 admitted was violated. (Pet. at 10-14.) Respondent counters that Mack has not established the state

1 trial request for continuance to obtain private counsel where private counsel had not
 2 contacted court, and witnesses were ready, because “[t]o continue the trial as such a date
 on such nebulous grounds would adversely affect the orderly administration of justice”].)

3 We conclude the trial court applied the correct standard for Mack’s request for
 4 a continuance to substitute new retained counsel, and did not abuse its discretion in
 denying the motion.

5 (Lodgment No. 12 at 7-11.)

6 “The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that ‘In all criminal
 7 prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.’”
 8 *Bradley v. Henry*, 510 F.3d 1093, 1096 (9th Cir. 2007) quoting U.S. Const. amend. VI. The United
 9 States Supreme Court has held that “an element of this right is the right of a defendant who does not
 10 require appointed counsel to choose who will represent him.” *United States v. Gonzalez-Lopez*, 548
 11 U.S. 140, 144, citing *Wheat v. United States*, 486 U.S. 153, 159 (1984). The right is not, however,
 12 absolute, as the Ninth Circuit has noted:

13 [T]here are four specific situations in which the Sixth Amendment does not entitle a
 14 defendant to preferred counsel: A defendant does not have the right to be represented
 15 by (1) an attorney he cannot afford; (2) an attorney who is not willing to represent the
 16 defendant; (3) an attorney with a conflict of interest; or (4) an advocate (other than
 17 himself) who is not a member of the bar. [Citation omitted.] In addition, the Court has
 established that a trial court requires “wide latitude in balancing the right to counsel of
 choice against the needs of fairness, and against the demands of its calendar. [Citation.]
 As such, trial courts retain the discretion to “make scheduling and other decisions that
 effectively exclude a defendant’s first choice of counsel.” [Citation.]

18 *Miller v. Blackletter*, 525 F.3d 890, 895 (9th Cir. 2008), citing *Wheat*, 486 U.S. at 159 and *Gonzalez-*
 19 *Lopez*, 548 U.S. at 152.

20 The state appellate court used the correct standard to evaluate Mack’s request to replace retained
 21 counsel. (See Lodgment No. 12 at 8.) Thus, the decision is not “contrary to” clearly established
 22 Supreme Court law. See *Williams*, 529 U.S. at 412-13.

23 Moreover, the trial court carefully and thoroughly addressed Mack’s request to replace retained
 24 counsel and properly evaluated the circumstances surrounding his request. Mack made his request at
 25 a pretrial hearing to determine his competency pursuant to California Penal Code section 1368.⁴ Mack

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 28 ⁴ Penal Code section 1368 provides a mechanism for referring a defendant for evaluation of his or her
 competency to stand trial.

1 stated that he wanted a *Marsden*⁵ hearing and that he wanted to “go pro per.” (Lodgment No. 17 at 5.)
 2 The trial judge explained to Mack that *Marsden* was not the proper method for replacing his attorney,
 3 Mr. Steigerwalt, because he was a retained attorney. *Id.* at 5-6. The court further explained that Mack
 4 had the right, under limited circumstances, “to fire Mr. Steigerwalt and hire another attorney” or
 5 represent himself. (Lodgment No. 17 at 5.) Mack explained that he had “another attorney lined up,
 6 hopefully, that’s going to take on the case.” (*Id.* at 6.) When asked whether he was ready to proceed
 7 either pro per or with a new attorney, Mack replied that he was “going to hire Roland Haddad,” and that
 8 Haddad would need time to review the case. (*Id.*) Mack had spoken to Haddad the day before and,
 9 according to Mack, would accept the case if Mack could pay Haddad a retainer by the end of the week.
 10 At that point, Haddad would set up a meeting with Mack to discuss the case and prepare. (*Id.* at 6-7.)
 11 The judge told Mack that the request was untimely because the case was set for trial that day and
 12 therefore the request for a continuance to hire new counsel was denied. (*Id.* at 7-8.) The court also
 13 explained:

14 THE COURT: If, if there was another attorney present, Mr. Haddad was present
 15 here and indicated “I’m ready, willing and able to step in, your Honor,” I certainly would
 16 grant your request to substitute counsel, if counsel was ready to go; but since we don’t
 17 have that, it’s uncertain.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Well —

19 THE COURT: You haven’t retained him. In fact, we don’t know when that
 20 retention would occur, if it could occur. All of those variables make it very uncertain
 21 and do not constitute good cause for a continuance.

22 THE DEFENDANT: Well, I am ready to represent myself then, pro per.

23 (*Id.* at 8.)

24 Given Mack’s statements that he “hopefully” had Mr. Haddad lined up to take over his case, and
 25 that he was “going to hire” Mr. Haddad who would take over “as long as I can pay him,” it is unclear
 26 whether Mack could afford to hire Haddad or that Haddad would remain willing to represent him if
 27 Mack was unable to pay him the amount Haddad requested by the end of the week. *See Miller*, 525
 28 F.3d at 895. Haddad was not even present at the hearing. (Lodgment No. 17 at 7.) Further, Mack told

⁵ Under *People v. Marsden*, 2 Cal. 3d 118 (1970), criminal defendants in California may ask the court to discharge their appointed attorney and appoint a new attorney when their right to effective representation is jeopardized.

1 the judge that Haddad would be not be ready to proceed until he had met with Mack and reviewed the
 2 case materials. The case was set for trial that morning, and the judge appropriately considered this fact,
 3 by “balancing the right to counsel of choice against . . . the demands of [the court’s] calendar.” *Miller*,
 4 525 F.3d at 895.

5 Both the state trial and appellate courts conducted a thorough and fair analysis of Mack’s request
 6 to replace retained counsel and used the proper standard in doing so. Accordingly, the state court’s
 7 denial of this claim was neither contrary to, nor an unreasonable application of, clearly established
 8 Supreme Court law. *Williams*, 529 U.S. at 412-13. He is not entitled to relief as to this claim.

9 2. *Denial of Mack’s Request to Represent Himself*

10 Mack claims the state court wrongly denied his request to represent himself, violating the federal
 11 constitutional rights afforded him under *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806 (1975). (Pet. at 10.)
 12 Respondent counters that the state court’s denial of this claim was neither contrary to, nor an
 13 unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. (Mem. P. & A. Supp. Pet. at 18-
 14 24.) Mack raised this claim in the petition for review he filed in the California Supreme Court, which
 15 denied the claim without citation of authority. (Lodgment Nos. 13, 14.) Accordingly, this Court must
 16 “look through” to the California Appellate Court opinion denying the claim as the basis for its analysis.
 17 That court wrote:

18 C. Analysis of Ruling on the *Faretta* Motion

19 Mack contends the trial court abused its discretion by denying his alternative
 20 *Faretta* motion to represent himself.

21 *Legal Framework*

22 A defendant has a federal constitutional right to self-representation in a criminal
 23 proceeding (*Faretta, supra*, 422 U.S. at p. 819), and *Faretta* applies to California
 24 criminal proceedings (*People v. Windham* (1977) 19 Cal.3d 121, 128 [a trial court must
 25 grant a defendant’s *Faretta* motion “upon ascertaining that he [or she] has voluntarily
 26 and intelligently elected to do so, irrespective of how unwise such a choice might appear
 27 to be”). Generally, “[a] trial court must grant a defendant’s request for self-
 representation if three conditions are met. First, the defendant must be mentally
 competent, and must make [the] request knowingly and intelligently, having been
 apprised of the dangers of self-representation. [Citations.] Second, [the defendant] must
 make [the] request unequivocally. [Citations.] Third, [the defendant] must make [the]
 request within a reasonable time before trial. [Citations.]” (*People v. Welch* (1999) 20
 Cal.4th 701, 729.)

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1 Although a defendant has the right to self-representation, to invoke an
 2 unconditional right he or she must assert it within a reasonable time prior to the
 3 commencement of trial. (*People v. Welch, supra*, 20 Cal.4th at p. 729.) A motion not
 4 made within a reasonable time prior to trial is addressed to the sound discretion of the
 5 trial court. (*People v. Marshall* (1996) 13 Cal.4th 799, 827.) In exercising its discretion
 6 the trial court should consider the quality of counsel's representation, the defendant's
 7 prior proclivity to substitute counsel, the reason for the request, the stage of the
 8 proceedings, and the disruption or delay that might reasonably be expected to follow
 9 granting the motion. (*Ibid.*) Additionally, a trial court may deny the motion if it finds
 10 it is made for the purpose of frustrating the orderly administration of justice. (*People v.*
 11 *Marshall* (1997) 15 Cal.4th 1, 23.) Finally, when ruling on a motion made in close
 12 proximity to trial, the court may also consider whether the defendant's prior conduct has
 13 demonstrated a likelihood the proceedings would be disrupted in the event the motion
 14 for self-representation is granted. (*People v. Jenkins* (2000) 22 Cal.4th 900, 962-963.)
 15 This includes consideration of defendant's manner and demeanor, any previous
 16 disruptive behavior, and any lack of control over his or her emotions that would
 17 demonstrate a risk of disruption of future court proceedings. (*Ibid.*) In exercising its
 18 discretion, the court may rely on a defendant's previous conduct and need not credit
 19 assurances made by the defendant at the time of the motion that he or she would not
 20 cause further disruption of the proceedings. (*Ibid.*)

21 When considering a *Faretta* motion made on the eve of trial, the court's
 22 discretion is "broad." (*People v. Hardy* (1992) 2 Cal.4th 86, 196.) On appeal, we "must
 23 give 'considerable weight' to the court's exercise of discretion and must examine the
 24 total circumstances confronting the court when the decision is made." (*People v. Howze*
 25 (2001) 85 Cal.App.4th 1380, 1397-1398.)

26 Analysis

27 The court concluded Mack's motion was untimely because it was made on the
 28 day trial was scheduled to begin. Moreover, it was accompanied by a request for a
 continuance that the trial court had already rejected. [footnote 8] Although

[footnote 8: Mack argues the request was timely because, although he
 asked to continue the trial to allow him to prepare, he agreed to start trial
 without a continuance were his motion granted. However, a court could
 well conclude his offer to go to trial without preparation cast doubt on
 whether his *Faretta* request was "knowing[] and intelligent[], having
 been apprised of the dangers of self-representation" (*People v. Welch,*
supra, 20 Cal.4th at p. 729), and was attempting to set up the record for
 appeal by "playing 'the *Faretta* game'" (*People v. Williams* (1990) 220
 Cal.App.3d 1165, 1170) for a subsequent appeal asserting his
 trial was unfair because he was denied time to prepare.]

there is no bright line test for determining the timeliness of a *Faretta* motion (*People v.*
Clark (1992) 3 Cal.4th 41, 99), the courts have noted a motion made within three
 calendar days of the commencement of trial does not give rise to an unqualified right to
 self-representation, and a court has discretion to deny the motion as untimely. (*People*
v. Rudd (1998) 63 Cal.App.3d 620, 626.) Indeed, even a motion made six calendar days
 prior to trial was made in such "close proximity" to trial that the decision whether to
 deny it as untimely was within the discretion of the trial court. (*People v. Ruiz* (1983)
 142 Cal.App.3d 780, 789-791.)

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1 The court below carefully considered each of the factors relevant to a *Faretta*
 2 motion made on the eve of trial. It considered the quality of counsel's representation
 3 (*People v. Marshall, supra*, 13 Cal.4th at p. 827), and noted Mack's attorney was
 4 competent and prepared for trial. It assessed Mack's stated reason for the request, and
 5 concluded the purported conflict arising from his allege physical attraction to counsel
 6 was "not credible to me [but instead] seem[s] to me to be patently false and
 7 manipulative." [footnote 10 omitted.] The court also evaluated whether Mack had a
 8 proclivity to substitute counsel, and concluded Mack did manifest a proclivity to try to
 9 manipulate the proceedings to delay trial (by apparently feigning mental illness and then
 10 refusing to cooperate with the doctor in section 1368 proceedings and by seeking a
 11 continuance on the day of trial), which is a permissible consideration. (See *People v.*
 12 *Marshall, supra*, 15 Cal.4th at p. 23 [court may deny a motion if it finds it is made for
 13 the purpose of frustrating the orderly administration of justice].) The court also
 14 considered whether Mack's prior conduct raised a likelihood the proceedings would be
 15 disrupted were his motion for self-representation granted. (*People v. Jenkins, supra*, 22
 16 Cal.4th at pp. 962-963.) The court noted he had delayed the proceedings by feigning
 17 mental illness and there was "reason to believe that that behavior could occur again," had
 18 shown a mercurial temperament and sullenly obstreperous behavior, and had threatened
 19 to spit on the prosecutor. These behaviors raised concerns that Mack would be unable
 20 to comport with appropriate courtroom behavior but would instead be disruptive were
 21 he representing himself. The court concluded Mack's course of conduct showed he was
 22 "playing a game with the court" and seeking to "delay these proceedings because the
 23 options are not great," which are proper considerations supporting denial of a *Faretta*
 24 motion. (*People v. Williams, supra*, 220 Cal.App.3d at p. 1170.)

25 We conclude, considering all the circumstances, the denial of Mack's *Faretta*
 26 motion was not an abuse of discretion.

27 (Lodgment No. 12 at 11-16.)

28 As the state court correctly noted, under *Faretta*, "[a] defendant in a state court criminal
 proceeding has an absolute right to be represented by counsel or to represent himself." *Jackson*, 921
 F.2d at 888, citing *Faretta*, 422 U.S. at 807. In order to invoke the right of self-representation, the
 defendant's request must be timely, unequivocal and not made for purposes of delay. *Sandoval v.*
Calderon, 241 F.3d 765, 774 (9th Cir. 2001).

 While Mack's request was unequivocal, the state court properly concluded it was not timely.
 "[T]he Supreme Court has not clearly established when a *Faretta* request is untimely, [and thus] other
 courts are free to do so as long as their standards comport with the Supreme Court's holding that a
 request 'weeks before trial' is timely." *Marshall v. Taylor*, 395 F.3d 1058, 1061 (9th Cir. 2005). The
 California Supreme Court has stated a *Faretta* request is timely if it is made within a reasonable time
 before trial. *People v. Windham*, 19 Cal. 3d 121, 127 (1977). The state appellate court properly applied
 California's timeliness rule to Mack's *Faretta* request and found that it was not timely because it was
 made on the day of trial. (See Lodgment No. 17 at 8-9; Lodgment No. 12 at 13-14.) Moreover, because

1 Mack's request was well short of the "weeks before trial" time frame the Supreme Court has stated is
2 timely, the state court's determination that Mack's request was untimely was not an unreasonable
3 application of United States Supreme Court law. *See Marshall*, 395 F.3d at 1061.

4 Mack claims his request to represent himself was timely because he first asked to represent
5 himself on October 24, 2005, two and a half weeks before trial. (Pet'rs Mem. P. & A. Supp. Pet. at 11.)
6 On that date, however, Mack was referred by the court for a mental competency exam pursuant to
7 California Penal Code section 1368 to determine whether he was competent to stand trial. (Lodgment
8 No. 15, vol. 2 at 0299.) "Whether a defendant is competent to exercise the right to self-representation
9 is determined by the same standard as whether a defendant is competent to stand trial." *United States*
10 *v. Glass*, No. 05-50221, 2009 WL 4827010 (9th Cir. 2009), citing *Godinez v. Moran*, 509 U.S. 389, 396
11 (1993).⁶ Even if a defendant is found competent, "a court may deny a defendant the right to
12 self-representation when the defendant . . . suffers from a 'severe mental illness.'" *Indiana v. Edwards*,
13 __U.S. __, 128 S.Ct. 2379, 2387-88 (2008). Thus, even if Mack had asked to represent himself on
14 October 24, 2005, the request could not have been granted at that juncture because his competency was
15 at issue. Mack did not make a request for self-representation again until the day of trial, November 10,
16 2005. (Lodgment No. 17 at 11.) As discussed above, that request was properly denied.

17 In addition, the trial court properly concluded Mack's *Faretta* request for made for the purpose
18 of delaying the trial. Mack claimed he wanted to represent himself because he was attracted to his
19 counsel and felt that it would be "very distracting for me and I don't feel I'm going to have the best
20 representation that I could." (Lodgment No. 17 at 9.) The trial judge had Mack fill out a waiver form
21 then questioned him about his answers. Mack appeared to understand the charges and the possible
22 sentence he faced. (*Id.* at 14-16.) The trial judge also asked several questions about Mack's mental
23 state and any medications he took. (*Id.* at 16-20.)

24 After reviewing the waiver and given his experience in court with Mack, the trial judge noted
25 that Mack had a history of exaggerating and attempting to manipulate the court. The judge suspected
26 that Mack had lied about the medications he was taking because Mack's information did not comport

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28 ⁶ Unpublished Ninth Circuit decisions may be cited commencing with decisions issued in 2007. (See Ninth Cir. Rule 36-3.) Although still not binding precedent, unpublished decisions have persuasive value and indicate how the Ninth Circuit applies binding authority.

1 with information the jail had provided him. (*Id.* at 24-25.) Mack had repeatedly feigned mental illness
2 in order to secure competency evaluations and delay the proceedings, a conclusion supported by the
3 doctors who evaluated Mack. (*Id.* at 26-27.) Mack refused to speak to one of the evaluating doctors,
4 in an apparent attempt to further delay the proceedings. (*Id.* at 29.) The judge also thought Mack's
5 claim that he was attracted to his counsel was a lie, as there was no indication in any of the facts of the
6 case or Mack's history that Mack was homosexual and Mack had made the claim "[with] a little grin
7 on his face." (*Id.* at 28-29.) The trial judge also believed that Mack's behavior indicated that he would
8 seek to further delay and disrupt the proceedings should he be permitted to represent himself. The judge
9 had witnessed Mack yelling abusively at counsel in court and the bailiff had overheard Mack threaten
10 to spit in the prosecutor's face. (*Id.* at 30-32.) Finally, the judge noted that Mack was not prepared to
11 proceed to trial. (*Id.* at 34.) Considering all these factors, the judge denied Mack's *Faretta* request
12 because it was untimely and "not for legitimate reasons." (*Id.* at 36.)

13 The record before the Court supports a conclusion that, using the proper standards, the state trial
14 court carefully examined Mack's *Faretta* request and denied it. The state appellate court thoroughly
15 and properly reviewed the trial court's denial of the request, and the court's decision was neither
16 contrary to, nor an unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. *Williams*, 529
17 U.S. at 412-13. Mack is not entitled to relief as to this claim.

18 3. *Fundamental Unfairness*

19 Mack claims the denial of his right to replace retained counsel and the denial of right to represent
20 himself rendered his trial fundamentally unfair, violating his federal due process rights. (Pet's Mem.
21 of P. & A. Supp. Pet at 12.) Respondent contends the state court's rejection of this claim was neither
22 contrary to, nor an unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. (Mem. P. & A.
23 Supp. Answer at 25-26.)

24 Mack raised this claim in the petition for review he filed in the California Supreme Court.
25 (Lodgment No. 13.) The court denied the petition without citation of authority. (Lodgment No. 14.)
26 Normally, this Court would "look through" to the California appellate court decision as the basis for its
27 analysis. *Ylst*, 501 U.S. at 805-06. Because that court did not address this claim in its opinion, however,
28 (*see* Lodgment No. 12), this Court "must conduct an independent review of the record to determine

whether the denial of the claim is contrary to, or an unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. *See Delgado*, 223 F.3d at 982; *Himes*, 336 F.3d at 853.

Mack's contention that the denial of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel of his choice and his right to represent himself rendered his trial fundamentally unfair is essentially a cumulative error claim. "Cumulative error applies where, although no single trial error examined in isolation is sufficiently prejudicial to warrant reversal, the cumulative effect of multiple errors has still prejudiced a defendant." *Jackson v. Brown*, 513 F.3d 1057, 1085 (9th Cir. 2008) quoting *Whelchel v. Washington*, 232 F.3d 1197, 1212 (9th Cir. 2000) Because the Court has concluded that Mack's Sixth Amendment rights were not violated by either the denial of his right to replace retained counsel or his right to represent himself, it follows that no cumulative error occurred, and the state court's denial of the claim is thus neither contrary to, nor an unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. *Williams*, 529 U.S. at 412-13. Mack is not entitled to relief as to this claim.

4. *Apprendi/Cunningham Violation*

Finally, Mack contends the state court violated his Sixth Amendment rights, as delineated in *Apprendi* and its progeny, specifically *Cunningham v. California*. Mack argues the court improperly imposed the upper term for his burglary conviction because the facts supporting the upper term were not found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt or admitted by him. (Pet'rs Mem. of P. & A. Supp. Pet at 13-14.) Respondent counters that the state court's resolution of this claim was neither contrary to, nor an unreasonable application of, clearly established Supreme Court law. (Mem. P. & A. Supp. Answer at 34-42.)

The last reasoned state court decision to address this claim is the state appellate court's opinion on remand. That court wrote as follows:

Mack asserts that selection of the upper term for his conviction on count 7 violated *Cunningham* because it was based on facts not found by the jury beyond a reasonable doubt. In *Cunningham*, the court concluded California's determinate sentencing law ("DSL") violates the Sixth Amendment because it "allocates to judges sole authority to find facts permitting the imposition of an upper term sentence[.]" (*Cunningham v. California*, *supra*, 127 S.Ct. at p. 870.) Relying on *Cunningham*, Mack contends the trial court's imposition of the upper term on count 7 in this case violated his Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial.

However, the California Supreme Court's recent decision in *People v. Black*, *supra*, 41 Cal.4th 799 (*Black II*) concluded a trial court may impose the upper term

1 without offending *Cunningham* if the defendant “is *eligible* for the upper term by virtue
2 of facts that have been established consistently with Sixth Amendment principles.”
(*Black II*, at p. 813.) We conclude *Black II* controls this case and mandates affirmance
3 of the sentence.

4 In *Black II*, the Supreme Court addressed the same issue raised by Mack here:
whether imposition of the upper term violated the defendant’s right to a jury trial. The
5 *Black II* court noted that in *Blakely v. Washington* (2004) 542 U.S. 296, the United States
Supreme Court “explicitly recognized the legitimate role of ‘judicial factfinding’ in
6 indeterminate sentencing, in which the judge may ‘implicitly rule on those facts he
deems important to the exercise of his sentencing discretion.’ [Quoting *Blakely*, at p.
7 309.]” (*Black II*, *supra*, 41 Cal.4th at pp. 812-813.) Accordingly, the *Black II* court
concluded that “so long as a defendant is *eligible* for the upper term by virtue of facts
8 that have been established consistently with Sixth Amendment principles, the federal
Constitution permits the trial court to rely upon any number of aggravating
9 aggravating and mitigating circumstances, regardless of whether the facts underlying
those circumstances have been found to be true by a jury.” (*Id.* at p. 813.) In *Black II*,
10 the court added that “[t]he facts upon which the trial court relies in exercising discretion
to select among the terms available for a particular offense ‘do not pertain to whether the
11 defendant has a legal *right* to a lesser sentence — and that makes all the difference
insofar as judicial impingement upon the traditional role of the jury is concerned.’
12 [Citation.]” (*Ibid.*)

13 After noting that “the existence of a single aggravating circumstance is legally
sufficient to make the defendant eligible for the upper term” under California’s DSL, the
14 *Black II* court concluded that “if one aggravating circumstance has been established in
accordance with the constitutional requirements set forth in *Blakely*, the defendant is not
15 ‘legally entitled’ to the middle term sentence, and the upper term sentence is the
‘statutory maximum’ for Sixth Amendment purposes. (*Black II*, *supra*, 41 Cal.4th at p.
16 813.) The *Black II* court then noted the United States Supreme Court “consistently has
stated that the right to a jury trial does not apply to the fact of a prior conviction[,]
17 [citations] [and that] ‘recidivism . . . is a traditional, if not the most traditional, basis for
a sentencing court’s increasing an offender’s sentence.’ [Citation.]” (*Black II*, at p. 818.)
18 On that basis, the *Black II* court reasoned a defendant’s criminal history alone may
render him eligible for the upper term.

19 The *Black II* court, after noting the probation report reflected the appellant in
20 *Black II* had convictions both numerous (three misdemeanors and two felonies) and of
increasing seriousness, next addressed the defendant’s argument that, even if the fact of
21 a prior conviction may not be a jury issue, he was nevertheless entitled to a jury trial
(under *Cunningham*) on the issues of numerosity or increasing seriousness. The *Black II*
22 court, rejecting the argument, explained the defendant “reads the ‘prior conviction’
exception too narrowly. [Citations.] As we recognized in [*People v. McGee* (2006) 38
23 Cal.4th 682], numerous decisions from other jurisdictions have interpreted the
Almendarez-Torres [v. *U.S.* (1998) 523 U.S. 224] exception to include not only the fact
24 that a prior conviction occurred, but also other related issues that may be determined by
examining the records of the prior convictions. [Citations.] [¶] The determinations
25 whether a defendant has suffered prior convictions, and whether those convictions are
‘numerous or of increasing seriousness’ (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 4.421(b)(2)), require
26 consideration of only the number, dates, and offenses of the prior convictions alleged.
The relative seriousness of these alleged convictions may be determined simply by
27 reference to the range of punishment provided by statute for each offense. This type of
determination is ‘quite different from the resolution of the issues submitted to a jury, and
28 is one more typically and appropriately undertaken by a court.’ [Quoting *McGee*, *supra*,
38 Cal.4th at p. 706.]” (*Black II*, *supra*, 41 Cal.4th at pp. 819-820, fn. omitted.)

1 Here, the court specifically noted Mack's prior convictions were numerous, and
 2 increasing in seriousness and violence. Because Mack's numerous conviction[s] were
 3 alone a sufficient basis to make him eligible for the upper term, we are compelled under
 4 *Black II* to conclude Mack suffered no Sixth Amendment violation by the trial court's
 exercise of its discretion in selecting the upper term for count 7 in this case based on
 facts determined by the trial court. (*Black II*, *supra*, 41 Cal.4th at p. 820.)

5 (Lodgment No. 12 at 16-19.)

6 The Supreme Court held in *Cunningham* that California's DSL violated defendants' jury trial
 7 rights safeguarded by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments because it permitted "a judge to impose
 8 a sentence above the statutory maximum based on a fact, other than a prior conviction, not found by a
 9 jury or admitted by the defendant." *Id.* at 275. The *Cunningham* court held that the "statutory
 10 maximum" is the middle term. *Id.* at 288-89. Under California law, a single aggravating factor is
 11 sufficient to support the imposition of the aggravated term. *See Butler v. Curry*, 528 F.3d 624, 642 (9th
 12 Cir. 2008) (citing *People v. Osband*, 13 Cal. 4th 622, 728 (1996), *People v. Forster*, 29 Cal. App. 4th
 13 1746 (1994), and *People v. Piceno* 195 Cal. App. 3d 1353 (1987).) Thus, "if at least one of the
 14 aggravating factors on which the judge relied in sentencing [Mack] was established in a manner
 15 consistent with the Sixth Amendment, [Mack's] sentence does not violate the Constitution." *Butler*, 528
 16 F.3d at 643.

17 The trial court imposed the upper term on the burglary count, count seven, based on the
 18 following aggravating factors: (1) Mack had "a substantial criminal record" and had been "committing
 19 crimes for years, despite his youth, against numerous types of victims"; (2) his convictions were
 20 "increasing in seriousness and increasing in violence"; and (3) "his history does indicate [he] is a serious
 21 danger to the community." (Lodgment No. 16, vol. 9 at 1062.) None of these facts were found by a jury
 22 beyond a reasonable doubt, nor did Mack admit to any of them. Even if the imposition of the aggravated
 23 term violated *Cunningham*, however, the error was harmless. *Cunningham* violations are subject to the
 24 harmless error analysis prescribed by *Brecht v. Abrahamson*, 507 U.S. 619 (1993). *See Butler*, 528 F.3d
 25 at 648. *Brecht* requires the Court to determine whether "the error had a substantial and injurious effect
 26 on [Mack's] sentence." *Id.* (quoting *Hoffman v. Arave*, 236 F.3d 523, 540 (9th Cir. 2001)). "Under that
 27 standard, we must grant relief if we are in 'grave doubt' as to whether a jury would have found the

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1 relevant aggravating factors beyond a reasonable doubt. *Id.* (quoting *O'Neal v. McAninch*, 513 U.S. 432,
2 436 (1995)). Rule 4.421(b) states the following are circumstances in aggravation:

3 (b) Factors relating to the defendant

4 (1) The defendant had engaged in violent conduct that indicates a serious
5 danger to society;

6 (2) The defendant's prior convictions as an adult or sustained petitions
7 in juvenile delinquency proceedings are numerous or of increasing
8 seriousness;

9

10 Cal.R.Ct. 4.421(b)(1), (2).

11 Given Mack's convictions for three counts of forcible rape, three counts of forcible oral
12 copulation, kidnaping for the purpose of rape, and corporal injury to a spouse or roommate as well as
13 his criminal history, the Court is confident that a jury would have found these aggravating circumstances
14 establish both of these valid, aggravating factors in a manner consistent with *Cunningham* and the Sixth
15 Amendment. *See Butler*, 528 F.3d at 648-49. The crimes of which Mack was convicted were
16 unequivocally "violent conduct that indicates a serious danger to society." In addition, Mack's prior
17 convictions for indecent exposure, petty theft, trespassing, burglary, and cultivating marijuana. and his
18 current convictions establish that his convictions are "of increasing seriousness." *See People v. Clark*,
19 12 Cal. App. 4th 663, 666 (1992) ("The offense for which a defendant is being sentenced may be
20 considered in determining that his or her convictions are of increasing seriousness.") Accordingly, any
21 *Cunningham* violation was harmless. *See Butler*, 528 F.3d at 643. Mack is not entitled to relief as to
22 this claim. *Williams*, 529 U.S. at 412-13.

23 **V. CONCLUSION**

24 Based on the foregoing reasons, the undersigned Magistrate Judge **RECOMMENDS** that the
25 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus be **DENIED**. This report and recommendation is submitted to the
26 United States District Judge assigned to this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).


27 **IT IS ORDERED** that no later than **May 27, 2010**, any party to this action may file written
28 objections with the Court and serve a copy on all parties. The document should be captioned
"Objections to Report and Recommendation."

///

1 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any reply to the objections shall be filed with the Court and
2 served on all parties no later than June 10, 2010. The parties are advised that failure to file objections
3 within the specified time may waive the right to raise those objections on appeal of the Court's order.
4 *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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7 DATED: May 6, 2010

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9 Hon. Anthony J. Battaglia
10 U.S. Magistrate Judge
11 United States District Court
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